

This budget proposal sent a clear signal to the rest of the world, and unfortunately it suggests to our allies, from Eastern Europe to the South China Sea, that American resolve is far from guaranteed.

On all these issues, there is broad and deep bipartisan interest in working together—infrastructure legislation that actually focuses on infrastructure, voting legislation that actually makes it easier to vote and harder to cheat, and funding legislation that provides the Pentagon what it needs to keep up with China, Russia, and other adversaries. Legislation on all these topics has a track record of earning overwhelming bipartisan support.

All these issues are ripe for regular order, bipartisan work if the President and our Democratic colleagues are interested in going about them in the right way. But if the administration decides to reprise their tactics from February and March, if Democrats just declare “our way or the highway,” we will know they have chosen to create political controversies rather than make progress for American families.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Madam President, once again, I am here today to talk about the crisis at our southern border and the continued dismantling of our Nation's immigration system by this administration.

The border has been dominating the headlines, but if you talked to the liberals, you wouldn't know it. While we were back home working in our States, Democrats focused on everything but the border. President Biden released a so-called infrastructure proposal that is not actually about infrastructure; it is nothing more than the Green New Deal in disguise, and it raises taxes on hard-working Americans.

Additionally, large corporations and Major League Baseball decided to give in to the demands of the woke, liberal mob based on nothing more than pure disinformation.

I know President Biden and Democrats would rather talk about those issues than confront the dire situation at the southern border. They are trying to pull a con job on the American people. Well, we are not going to let President Biden distract from a crisis of his own making.

In a recent House hearing, Department of Homeland Security Secretary Mayorkas made a ridiculous claim that “the border is secure.” To say the border is secure is laughable. I recently joined Senators CORNYN and CRUZ and other colleagues on a visit to the southern border to see for ourselves,

and I can tell you and the American people without hesitation, the border is not secure. Reports just don't do it justice. It is a disaster. As an American who believes in the rule of law, I was embarrassed. This is not a Democratic or a Republican problem; it is an American problem. This crisis is a stain on our Nation.

What we saw on our trip broke my heart—so many young, unaccompanied children sent on a dangerous journey north by their parents because this administration promised to take them in. The compassion shown by the Border Patrol agents was clear. These brave men and women are doing all they can to make the best out of a terrible situation—a situation created by our President and his administration.

I have said it before, and I will say it again: The situation happening at our southern border was predictable and preventable. The Border Patrol folks know this will happen and that it would happen. They told us how they asked the Border Patrol before the inauguration to give them time to prepare for any changes to the immigration policy, but President Biden didn't listen. He was more interested in appeasing the globalists who demanded he immediately end President Trump's successful border policies.

On his first day in office, President Biden reversed President Trump's policies and signaled to the world that the American border was open. President Biden gave Border Patrol little to no warning. The result has been a border that is not run by the United States; it is run by the Mexican cartel and human smugglers.

What is worse, it is not just people who are coming in illegally. While I was down at the border, I saw firsthand how criminals take advantage of the situation. Cartels send migrants to specific locations along the border to pre-occupy law enforcement while moving illegal drugs at other crossing points. On a midnight visit to the Rio Grande, these traffickers actually taunted us from across the river, yelling and flashing their lights. They know the Biden administration is unwilling to confront them, and because the administration won't confront them, we have seen massive increases in drug seizures.

In January and February alone, Customs and Border Patrol seizures of fentanyl were up 277 percent compared to the same time in 2020. Cocaine seized at the border is up 62 percent. And, remember, whether it is people or drugs, these numbers only account for those we catch. There are many more drug runners who get through undetected.

Secretary Mayorkas has said the administration's goal is a safe, legal, and orderly immigration system. Well, so far, he and they have failed on all three. The immigration system under the Biden administration is not safe. By encouraging the migrants to come to the border, President Biden has empowered the drug cartels and coyotes who prey on desperate people.

According to Mexican intelligence assessments, it costs an unaccompanied Central American minor between \$3,000 and \$10,000 to be secured across the U.S. border. An open border also invites wolves in sheep's clothing. According to Customs and Border Protection, at least four people have been arrested in the last few months at the border who match names on the FBI's Terrorist Screening Database. There is no doubt that those who wish harm will take advantage of this crisis to infiltrate our country.

The Biden administration also is not enforcing the laws written by Congress. That is why I joined with 39 of my Republican colleagues to send a letter to the nonpartisan Government Accountability Office to investigate President Biden's unilateral decision to freeze funds for the border wall.

Congress specifically appropriated funds for border wall construction. I believe the President's actions infringe on Congress's constitutional power of the purse. I hope the GAO will quickly look into this so we can begin to restore border security.

Finally, the immigration system under the Biden administration is not orderly. In fact, it is chaotic. Our Border Patrol agents are overwhelmed. In March of this year, Border Patrol arrested more than 170,000 migrants crossing the border illegally. That is the worst month in 15 years. To put that in perspective for the folks back home, that means there are more illegal migrants rushing our border in 1 month than the entire population of Lee County, AL, where I live.

Last month, more than 18,700 unaccompanied minors were taken into custody by the Border Patrol. That is double the number they encountered in February.

This chaos is due entirely to President Biden's careless words and foolish policies. The Biden administration is content to let all who come here illegally stay. That is a recipe for disaster. The result is a border catastrophe.

I have spoken previously about commonsense actions to secure the border, such as continuing to build the wall and reinstating Migrant Protection Protocols. Here is one more. I recently introduced a bill that would require DHS to issue a notice to appear—called an NTA—to every migrant who is processed at the border.

We cannot—we cannot continue to release illegal immigrants into our country without establishing some accountability, such as a date for immigration court. At best, it hurts those who come to this country actually looking to plead their asylum case. At worst, it is giving free rein to those who enter our country illegally.

The Biden administration says they want humane and compassionate improvements to our immigration system. Releasing someone without an NTA is neither.

My bill also requires the Department of Homeland Security to revoke any

status and work authorization from a migrant who doesn't show up for their court date. This mandate will curb the pull factors embedded in our immigration system and cut down on incentives for illegal immigration. It is a small but meaningful step. It is about restoring integrity in our immigration system.

President Biden has made weak attempts to turn back the tide of migrants, even telling them: "Don't come." President Biden's actions speak louder than those two feeble words. Well, Mr. President, as we say in Alabama, you are a day late and a dollar short.

My Republican colleagues and I will continue to demand action from the President on this crisis on behalf of the legal citizens of the United States of America. I stand ready to work with the President and his administration on commonsense solutions to secure the border, strengthen national security, and protect the American people. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, first, I would like to associate myself with the refined remarks of the Senator from Alabama because I, too, have come to talk about the crisis on our southern border.

The Senator from Alabama and I traveled together, along with Senator CRUZ and Senator CORNYN, just a few weeks ago. I think we had a total of 19 Senators who went to see the crisis firsthand.

And, in fact, it is not just one crisis, as the Senator from Alabama and I have both spoken about. It is a double crisis. It is a national security crisis as well as a humanitarian crisis.

We went on a midnight patrol. And what did we see at midnight? Well, we saw, and we heard. Not just did we see the lights on, on the other side of the Rio Grande; we heard the catcalls from traffickers who were taunting our U.S. Border Patrol agents, saying in Spanish: You cannot stop us now. That is what we are hearing from the criminals and the traffickers across the Rio Grande.

We saw signs on the ground directing migrants to the facilities where they will then turn themselves in, and we spoke to the Border Patrol agents. They told us that their jobs got an awful lot harder on January 20, which is the day Joe Biden became President of the United States.

President Biden flipped over the sign and sent a clear message around the world that said the U.S. border is now wide open. Because of that clear message, Border Patrol arrests and detentions have doubled since January.

In March, Border Patrol took 171,000 migrants into custody. Nearly 19,000 of those were unaccompanied minors. That is an alltime record in the United States. And the pace that we are on now is to get to 2 million illegal immigrants crossing our border this very year.

According to the Secretary of Homeland Security, nominated by President Biden, this is the most in 20 years—the most in 20 years, right now, this year, under President Biden. The Biden White House has essentially told the world anyone under 18 can cross our border, and we will let you in. So it is no surprise that today we are seeing a historic influx of children, of teenagers crossing our border.

The Border Patrol agents tell us two-thirds of them can't do their regular jobs because they are too busy babysitting these children or escorting adults to the areas where they will turn themselves in. More children today are in Border Patrol custody than ever before. And in a day of a global pandemic, I will tell you, as I was there with the Senators in a location designed for 250 during coronavirus, there were 7,000 crammed in like sardines, with foil blankets to huddle under, and no social distancing—none at all.

This is a Biden-created humanitarian crisis. Under the law, children can only be in Border Patrol custody for 72 hours. We wouldn't want our own children there for 72 minutes. Yet there are thousands and thousands in custody for over 10 days.

And 10 percent of the young people being tested are testing positive for coronavirus. We watched the testing in the courtyard where I was. They were all together, and then they tested some, and they said: OK. You test negative. You go that way. You test positive. You go that way.

But absolutely every one of them was exposed to each other. So with the fact that 10 percent are testing positive, it is highly likely that the remainder will test positive as well. And what is the Biden administration doing about that? They are sending those young people—either those people just exposed to coronavirus, just standing right next to somebody with coronavirus, sending them all across the country, exposed to whoever knows what strain of coronavirus it was.

So this is a humanitarian crisis, but, I will tell you, it is also a national security crisis. The Department of Homeland Security has now arrested two men from the country of Yemen who are on the terrorist watchlist. The Border Patrol says they were apprehending people not just from Central America and Mexico, they have apprehended people from 56 different countries there at the border since President Biden has taken the oath of office.

Last week, Border Patrol agents outside San Diego arrested a member of MS-13, one of the most vicious criminal gangs in the world.

Now, these are just a couple of examples that we know about. Imagine things we don't know about, the people who haven't been caught, people who are roaming among us today in the United States.

That is what I hear about in Wyoming. I have just been home for 2

weeks talking to people. This is the No. 1 topic that I heard about traveling the State of Wyoming.

So we have two crises at the southern border: the humanitarian crisis and the national security crisis. President Biden has caused them both, and President Biden can stop them. Yet the Biden administration is still in denial. It refuses to even admit that there is a crisis. President Biden still hasn't been to the border. Neither has the Vice President, and she is supposed to be in charge of finding a solution to the problem.

So, once again, today I call on President Biden and Vice President Harris to go to the border and face the truth. Today is the day. Go to the border. Face the truth. The President and Vice President should talk to the Border Patrol agents. They should hear the stories that we have heard from them. It is the stories that they want to tell. They need to hear these stories. They need to face the reality.

Border Patrol agents told me directly: Finish the wall and bring back the "Remain in Mexico" policy because those are things that will make a difference. Until we do those two things, the jobs of the Border Patrol agents will continue to get tougher and tougher every day.

Vast numbers, vast majorities of American people support the Border Patrol agents. I know there are people on the other side of the aisle who want to eliminate Immigration and Customs Enforcement, want to get rid of the border line and having people who are patrolling the borders, want to get rid of it all and have open borders fully and without the kind of national security that we need at our borders.

But according to the Associated Press, only one in four Americans approves of how President Biden is handling the border situation. President Biden should listen to the American people. We need change at the border. We need it today. We cannot wait. Our national security cannot wait. The humanitarian crisis must be met and dealt with.

Republicans are going to continue to offer commonsense solutions that will make a real difference at the border. We want to finish the wall. We want to bring back the "Remain in Mexico" policy. We want to stem this crisis—the humanitarian crisis and the national security crisis—that is facing our Nation today. We stand for enforcing the law, for closing loopholes that encourage illegal immigration. We want to secure the border.

So I would urge President Biden and all of my Democratic colleagues to please face the facts. Join us in our effort. It is time to bring this crisis to an end.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. DUCKWORTH). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The majority leader is recognized.

HONORING OFFICER WILLIAM F. EVANS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, the Senate returns to session in the shadow of tragedy. A week ago last Friday, the senseless attack on the Capitol by a lone actor injured one Capitol Police officer and claimed the life of another, Officer William "Billy" Evans.

All of us in the Capitol and all of us across the Nation wish for the speedy recovery of Officer Shaver and mourn the loss of another fallen hero.

To pay tribute to his final act of bravery, Officer Evans will lie in honor under the Capitol Rotunda, at the very center of the democracy he gave his life to protect. A service in his memory will take place tomorrow morning.

For everyone who works in the Senate, his loss is particularly painful. He was a familiar face who greeted lawmakers, reporters, staffers, and employees at the north entrance as we entered the Senate side of the building. Whether you knew him or not, his wide smile was often the first thing you would see in the morning.

This has been an immensely difficult few months for members of the Capitol Police Force and for everyone who works behind the scenes to safeguard the Capitol Complex. Senate committees are conducting bipartisan and comprehensive reviews to ensure the Capitol is as secure as possible while also remaining accessible to the public. That is a top priority.

But also, in this moment of profound loss, we need to comfort each other and support members of the Capitol Police, who, in 4 short months, have suffered a brutal attack by a violent mob and lost four of their friends and cherished colleagues. We must never, never take for granted the work they do, day in and day out, to guard this citadel of democracy.

I will have more to say tomorrow when we pay tribute to the life of Officer Evans. For now, I wish to extend my deep condolences to his friends and family, especially his two young children, and everyone whose lives were enriched by knowing this incredible, incredible public servant.

BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Now, Madam President, on an entirely other matter, as the Senate returns to work this week, we are going to pick right back up where we left off in aggressively filling the Biden administration with well-qualified nominees and pursuing timely legislation that meets the needs of the American people.

This week, the Senate will vote on the nominations of Polly Trottenberg to serve as Deputy Secretary of Transportation, Wendy Sherman to serve as

Deputy Secretary of State, Gary Gensler to serve on the Securities and Exchange Commission, and Brenda Mallory to be a Member of the Council on Environmental Quality. Each is exceptionally well qualified for the respective position and each, I expect, will receive bipartisan support here on the floor.

I am particularly proud of Polly Trottenberg, who was my legislative director and legislative assistant on Transportation, I believe it was, for 9 years. She then served as commissioner of transportation in New York City. One of the things, of course, that I talked to her about regularly was getting Gateway, our much needed tunnel, built under the Hudson—so needed by New York, New Jersey, and the entire Northeast corridor.

The Senate will also vote on whether to debate legislation from Senator HIRONO and Representative MENG to address the surge of anti-Asian hate crimes during the COVID pandemic.

Over the past year, we have read horrible accounts of violence and discrimination against Asian Americans, spurred on by ignorance and xenophobia and the vicious slander that blames the Chinese people for COVID-19—slander that was often encouraged and repeated so regrettably—I so regret that a President would stoop to that level—by the former President, who seemed to almost revel in advancing bigotry.

Sadly, the recent spate of anti-Asian violence is not a new chapter in American history. From the Chinese massacre of 1871 to the explicitly racist Chinese Exclusion Act, the internment of Japanese-American citizens, and the shameful Korematsu Supreme Court decision, the Asian-American community has long suffered the hammer blows of racism and bigotry.

We cannot let this new surge, which contains echoes of these violent chapters in our history, go unaddressed. So, this week, the Senate will vote on Senator HIRONO's anti-Asian hate crimes bill, and I know the Presiding Officer is a proud sponsor of that legislation.

The bill does two things.

First, it tells the Department of Justice they need to make consideration of these hate crimes a top priority during this pandemic. There is a scourge of abuse happening to the Asian-American community—shamefully aided and abetted by former President Trump—and it needs to be prioritized by law enforcement more than it is right now.

Second, it sends a very important signal from the Congress of the United States to the American public: These crimes will not be tolerated, and there will be consequences.

This legislation is as commonsense and straightforward as it gets. It is as unobjectionable as it gets. I should expect our work on Senator HIRONO's hate crimes bill to be thoroughly bipartisan. President Biden has urged Congress to swiftly pass this legislation and send it to his desk. Let's get it done this week.

I attended four or five—maybe even more—rallies against anti-Asian violence, and I was heartsick to hear the stories: an elderly man afraid to just walk out on the street that he might be ridiculed, spat upon and a young lady who didn't want to travel the subways because of the glares and stares at her from some people because of her Asian ancestry. The stories could be repeated over and over again, and, unfortunately, this bigotry has often ended in violence.

We must stop it as Americans. We all know—every one of us—that racism against one is racism against all. We must stop it. Again, I plead with my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to let this legislation go forward—it seems so unobjectionable—and pass with a strong bipartisan vote. Again, let's get it done this week.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Madam President, on infrastructure, finally, over the next several months, the Biden administration has said that it will push a comprehensive infrastructure and jobs bill in coordination with Congress. This effort could not come at a better time. The American Rescue Plan is already delivering on its promise to lift the country out of the COVID crisis and set our economy back on the path to recovery.

Over the State work period, I visited scores of restaurants, like Essie's in Mount Carmel and Russo's Grill in Amsterdam, that are now receiving a crucial lifeline of assistance from the American Rescue Plan. I visited small and independent stages and venues, like the Bug Jar in Rochester, which will soon receive grants through the Save our Stages Act, and I met with community organizations to hear about how New York families are receiving thousands of dollars per child through the expanded child tax credit—or will be receiving, rather. That is a policy that is going to lift millions of American children out of poverty during a time of economic hardship for so many.

The American Rescue Plan is helping the country recover from the worst public health crisis in a century and the worst economic crisis in three-quarters of a century. Now, not later, is the time to build on that solid foundation to create jobs and cement a robust economy.

The next big step is a long overdue investment and a large and significant investment in our Nation's infrastructure. We know that our Nation's roads and bridges and railways and waterways and ports are in need of an overhaul. So too does our country need investment in modern infrastructure projects, like our electric grid, broadband internet access, and 5G, just to name a few. President Biden's proposal will address both our traditional infrastructure needs and invest in 21st century infrastructure projects that America sorely needs.

Again, this very important work should be bipartisan. This is an issue